

APPENDIX Q -- CORRESPONDENCES REGARDING THE 2002 MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS PRIORITY LIST

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J. Vanplunder



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406 • (561) 686-8800 • FL WATS 1-800-432-2045 • TDD (561) 697-2574
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RES 16

October 16, 2002

Mr. David Struhs
Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Mr. Struhs: *DAVID*

In response to Section 373.042(2), Florida Statutes, the South Florida Water Management District (District) is submitting the "2002 Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List" and schedule. The District's Governing Board approved the attached list and schedule on October 11, 2001.

We look forward to the Department's approval so that it may be published in the Florida Administrative Weekly by January 1, 2002.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Henry", written over a horizontal line.

Henry Dean
Executive Director

TB/kl
Attachments

GOVERNING BOARD

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Henry Dean, *Executive Director*

**2002 Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List:
1996-2002 (updated 10/12/01)**

#	WMD	Waterbody	WB Type	County	1996 List	1997 List	1998 List	1999 List	2000 List	2001 List	Date Estab.	Peer Rev.	Reason for Schedule Change	Existence of or Potential for Significant Harm	Location (latitude & longitude)
12	SF	Lake Butler Chain	L	Orange						2008		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals	
13	SF	Alligator Lake	L	Osceola	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
14	SF	Lake Tohopekaliga	L	Osceola	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
15	SF	Lake Hatchineha	L	Osceola	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
16	SF	Lake Tohopekaliga	L	Osceola	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
17	SF	Cypress Lake	L	Polk	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
18	SF	Fish Lake	L	Polk	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
19	SF	Lake Jackson	L	Polk	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
20	SF	Lake Marian	L	Polk	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
21	SF	Lake Pierce	L	Polk	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
22	SF	Lake Rosalie	L	Polk	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006		Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
23	SF	Kissimmee	L	Polk, Osceola	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2006		Y	no immediate adverse WS impacts; consistency with other Kissimmee chain lakes	Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
24	SF	Loxahatchee	R	Palm Beach, Martin	2000	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002		Y		Existing alterations to watershed have altered discharges to estuary. Existing and projected increases in withdrawals are also a factor.	
25	SF	Kissimmee	R	Polk, Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2006		Y	no immediate adverse WS impacts; consistency with other Kissimmee chain lakes	Projecting future increases in withdrawals.	
26	SF	Caloosahatchee	R, E	Lee, Hendry	1999	2000	2000	2000	2001	complete	2001	Y		Alterations to the watershed have changed discharges to the estuary. Existing and projected increases in withdrawals are also a factor.	
	SF	Estero	R, E	Lee					2006			Y		Projecting future increases in withdrawals	
27	SF	St. Lucie	R, E	St. Lucie	2000	2001	2001	2001	2001		2001*	Y		Alterations to the watershed have changed discharges to the estuary. Existing and projected increases in withdrawals are also a factor.	
28	SF	Everglades National Park and WCAs	W	Palm Beach, Broward, Dade	1996	1999	1999	2000	2001	complete	2001	Y	Need to wait for completion of Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan which is scheduled for 4/00	Projecting future increases in withdrawals	

WB Type: A=Aquifer, FI=Floridan, E=Estuary, L=Lake, R=River, W=Wetland; 2001 List=anticipated MFL establishment date proposed in 2001; Peer Rev.=voluntary peer review of MFL; * MFL in rule making; ** MFL rule challenged.



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Twin Towers Office Building
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

David B. Struhs
Secretary

December 12, 2001

Mr. Henry Dean, Executive Director
South Florida Water Management District
Post Office Box 24680
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

RE: 2001 Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule

Dear Mr. Dean:

Thank you for your October 16, 2001 letter providing SFWMD's 2001 minimum flows and levels (MFL) priority list and schedule. We commend the District on establishing MFLs this year for Lake Okeechobee, the Biscayne aquifer, Everglades National Park, the Lower West Coast aquifer system, and the Caloosahatchee River. This is a milestone for the District in the protection and restoration of South Florida's water resources. We are also pleased that the District added the Lower West Coast Water Table Aquifer, Estero Bay, and the Lake Butler Chain of Lakes for establishment in 2004, 2006 and 2008, respectively. Additionally, the postponement of the Loxahatchee River MFL in response to peer review concerns should result in a better MFL. Pursuant to Section 373.042(2), F.S., this letter constitutes approval of your 2001 MFL priority list and schedule. However, the Department asks you to consider the following comments as you establish MFLs and prepare next year's priority list.

As you know, the Floridan Aquifer resources in the Northern Kissimmee Basin are reaching their limits of development. It is important for SFWMD and SJRWMD to work together to protect and sustain the water resources and natural systems of Central Florida. The establishment of a MFL for the Floridan Aquifer by 2005 will be an important step in protecting these resources and will provide critical information as you update the regional water supply plan for the Northern Kissimmee Basin in 2005. During the development of MFLs, it is important that the District evaluates the impact of additional groundwater withdrawals on the area's sensitive surface waters and wetlands. Specifically, we hope the District will consider expediting the MFL establishment for the Lake Butler Chain of Lakes to 2005, so that this information can be used to update the water supply plan.

Establishment of a MFL for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River has been delayed one year so that additional technical work can be done. This MFL is especially important to the Department because of the impacts experienced by Jonathon Dickinson State Park. It is our understanding that concurrent with establishment of the MFL, the District will commit to a process and schedule to determine a feasible restoration goal for flows in the river. This goal will be the basis for future revisions to the MFL. We anticipate a recovery and prevention strategy will be needed for this system, both for the initial MFL and the subsequent revisions, and look forward to continued close cooperation with the District on ensuring appropriate flows in the Loxahatchee River.

"More Protection, Less Process"

Printed on recycled paper.

The Department's Bureau of Watershed Management has also reviewed the 2001 MFL priority lists (see attached memo). The Bureau is responsible for developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the state's impaired water bodies. Understanding the range and timing of available levels and flows in Florida's major lakes, rivers, and other water bodies is essential to development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

As the goals of the MFL and TMDL programs are similar, we should try to coordinate their schedules, thereby using the state's resources more efficiently. It would help if the District established MFLs on a schedule slightly in advance of the need to develop TMDLs. The attached memo contains the Department's TMDL water body list and schedule for the next two years. Before preparing next year's MFL priority list, please have your staff contact Jan Mandrup-Poulsen at s.c. 291-9488 to discuss possible coordination of MFL and TMDL schedules.

The Department supports your continuing efforts toward establishing MFLs and requests that the District carefully considers these comments in the development of next year's priority list and schedule. To allow adequate time for review, we request that next year's list be submitted by October 15, 2002. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Llewellyn or Tom Swihart at (850) 488-0784.

Sincerely,



David B. Struhs
Secretary

DBS/kk

Attachment

cc: Janet Llewellyn, DEP, DWRM
Melissa Meeker, DEP, SED
Herb Zebuth, DEP, SED
Rick Cantrell, DEP, SFD
Richard Orth, DEP, SFD
Vivian Garfein, DEP, CFD
Chris Ferraro, DEP, CFD
Dana Bryan, DEP, DRP

Pam McVety, DEP, DRP
Eric Livingston, DEP, BWM
Jan Mandrup-Poulsen, DEP, BWM
Terrie Bates, SFWMD
Matthew Morrison, SFWMD
Joel VanArman, SFWMD
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RES 10-12

January 29, 2002

Secretary David B. Struhs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Twin Towers Office Building
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Dear Secretary Struhs:

DAVID

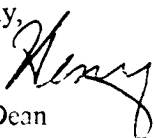
Subject: 2001 Minimum Flows and Levels Priority List and Schedule

The South Florida Water Management District (District) appreciates the time taken by you and your staff to review our Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) Priority List and provide thoughtful comments. The District will give full consideration to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) suggestions for modifying this list in the future to more effectively incorporate MFL criteria into Water Supply Plans. In addition, the District will work with the Department to identify impaired waters and develop coordinated schedules for TMDL and MFL development.

The District further agrees that we need to assist the FDEP and Jonathon Dickinson State Park staff in their efforts to develop successful restoration goals and objectives for the Loxahatchee River. The District will include a request to allow staff to assist FDEP with restoration of the Loxahatchee River, along with other District priority efforts, as items for discussion as part of the Governing Board's strategic planning retreat on February 22 of this year. Over the next several months, District staff will continue efforts to develop an MFL for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River and estuary, based on best available data, to protect this system against significant harm.

Thank you again for your thoughtful comments and advice concerning Minimum Flows and Levels within our District. We look forward to further discussions with you and your staff concerning the future of the Loxahatchee River system and other MFL priority areas.

Sincerely,


Henry Dean
Executive Director

c: Dana Bryan, DEP, DRP
Rick Cantrell, DEP, SFD
Chris Ferraro, DEP, CFD
Vivian Garfein, DEP, CFD
Eric Livingston, DEP, BWM
Janet Llewellyn, DEP, DWRM

Jan Mandrup-Poulsen, DEP, BWM
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Q-6

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